

The Book of 2 Timothy
Lesson 5 - 2 Timothy 3:10-17
Prescription for a Healthy Church
“Timothy’s Guides”

If Jannes and Jambres were ministers of Satan’s work, then Paul is our best example of a worker for the Lord. He hid nothing. Paul names the cities in the area near Timothy’s home, because Timothy would be familiar with them. Timothy knew Paul’s teaching, his conduct, the purpose that motivated his life, the faith that sustained him in trials, the long-suffering, love, and endurance that he showed, even when persecuted, and the wonderful way God took care of him through it all. Paul’s life had been an example to young Timothy, as ours ought to be to others today.

Persecution is not something that Christians should deliberately encourage, but if they live godly lives, persecution will come automatically. *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly”* is the best translation of v.12. When our will is dedicated to God, then Satan will attack us. You can be sure that during these last days, it will be more and more difficult to live for Christ. As never before, we need Christians who will, like Paul, live for Christ completely.

Since these satanic seducers are going to continue, what should the Christian do? Continue to be faithful to the Word of God. The only answer to Satan’s lies is God’s truth. If every local church would get back to the Word of God, and if every pastor and Sunday School teacher would teach the Word of God, Satan’s disciples would be defeated.

Timothy’s relationship to the Bible is outlined in these verses. It began when he was a child and learned the Old Testament Scriptures from his mother and grandmother. They did not merely teach him the facts of the Bible; they gave him assurance and spiritual understanding. Timothy knew for himself the truth of the Word; he did not depend on others to defend the Word for him.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. The word “inspired” means “God-breathed, filled with the breath of God.” The Spirit of God enabled men of God to write the Word of God, for the Spirit of God is the “breath” of God. “All Scripture” means that every word of God is inspired.

What is the purpose of the Bible? Of course, salvation is the first purpose, but Christian living is also included. The Word is profitable for teaching, conviction, setting right, and discipline. It enables the child of God to become a man or woman of God, matured in the things of the Lord. It is fine for Christians to take study courses and learn methods of ministry, but the best way for them to equip themselves to serve God is to study and practice the Word of God. Study books tell us how, but the Bible gives us the motivation and power to live what we learn.

The great need among churches and Christians today is to return to the Bible. If the churches do not get back to God's Word, the satanic deceivers will take over and millions of lost sinners will go to hell because they were led astray by religious lies.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-13 and answer the following questions:

1. Why should Paul's words, lifestyle, goals, character and experience strengthen Timothy (See 3:10-11)?
2. List Paul's qualities that Timothy followed. Define each one.
3. Has anyone served as this kind of example for you? If so, how has that person strengthened your service to God?
4. 2 Timothy 3:12 says that a committed Christian can expect persecution. Why is this so? (See 2 Tim. 3:12, John 15:18-25, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7).
5. Who besides Paul will be persecuted?
6. Has God promised His people a life of ease on earth? Do godly people in every age suffer exactly like Paul did? Explain.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and answer the following questions:

7. As others become more evil and cause persecution, what should Timothy do (See 3:14)? According to what we have studied, from who had he learned these things?

8. What role did Scripture have in Timothy's education?

9. Why should children be taught God's Word?

10. What can we learn from vs.14-15 about staying faithful even as others become unfaithful and as we suffer for the truth?

11. *God-breathed, "Inspired by God"* in the NKJV. The Greek word *theopneustos* is composed of *theo*, meaning "God," and *pneustos*, which refers to breathing, blowing, or sending forth one's spirit. In the Bible, the breath, wind, or Spirit of God is closely connected with His creative Word and inspired speaking (Genesis 1:2-3, 1 Kings 19:11-13, Acts 2:1-4). When God breathed His spirit into men so that they might be His spokesmen (prophets, writers of Scripture), He did not take over their minds or wills, but somehow guided them to speak His truth as they gave Him their attention. *"All Scripture is 'God-breathed' and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"* 2 Timothy 3:16 NIV
What is the source of Scripture? Why is this important?

12. List 4 uses of Scripture according to 3:16.

13. What can Scripture do according to 3:17?

Leading by Example

Brethren join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil. 3:17

As Paul recognized leaders always lead by personal example, whether they are aware of it or not. And their example extends far beyond the nature of the task at hand. People pattern their motives and values after executives, supervisors, and other leaders. Paul encouraged others to follow his example. What sort of example do you set for others? Are you aware of how you influence them? Are you close enough to the people around you, and in touch enough with your own tendencies to have confidence in how others might follow you?